

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814



March 25, 2005

Beverly Beasley Johnson, Director
Kern County
Department of Human Services
P.O. Box 511
Bakersfield, California 93302

Dear Ms. Beasley Johnson:

The purpose of this letter is to approve Kern County's System Improvement Plan (SIP) submitted to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) as part of the California Child and Family Services Review (C-CFSR).

My staff has conducted an analysis of Kern's Quarterly County Data Reports, Self Assessment and SIP. At this time, we concur with the direction and the overall strategies for improvement. We also concur with the county's prioritization of activities for this upcoming SIP period.

On a quarterly basis, Kern County will be contacted by your Children's Services Operations Bureau consultant to obtain updates on the status of your progress to implement program change. Additionally, Operations Bureau staff will continue to utilize Quarterly County Data Reports to monitor your county's performance on all of the outcome indicators. In the event that a county's Quarterly County Data Reports identifies a negative data trend or insufficient progress in any of the outcome indicators, including those not contained within the SIP, the CDSS will contact the county to request an amendment be submitted to the SIP.

The CDSS recognizes that the implementation of a new statewide oversight system is both exciting and challenging. The CDSS would also like to reiterate the expectation that the activities contained within the county SIPs will assist the State in meeting its federal Program Improvement Plan goals. The CDSS will also be promulgating regulations for the C-CFSR within the upcoming year. We would like to express our appreciation for Kern County's commitment to the C-CFSR and to continuously improving outcomes for the children and families we serve.

If you have any further questions about this information please contact me at (916) 657-2614 or Wesley A. Beers, Chief of the Operations and Evaluation Branch at (916) 651-8111.

Sincerely,

Original signed by Wesley A. Beers for

BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Deputy Director
Children and Family Services Division

Enclosure